

Mission
to
Eagle Pass Texas
Fall 2010

Photos by:
Dick Horstman, Pat Peters, Ann Turner

Mission: to be sent; to reach out.

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21



St. John Vianney Catholic Church
Houston Texas

SJV Mission Trip to Eagle Pass Texas

Fall October 21-24 2010

Letter to Pastor, Father Troy Gately, from Dick Horstman:

The Team

I wanted to let you know that the mission trip to Eagle Pass this weekend went very well. With Father Gerry Kelly and Sister Ursula Herrera, the team consisted of 15 missionaries. It was a wonderful team; filled with the Spirit and dedicated to proclaiming the Kingdom of God to one another and the people we served.

The Prayers

Father Gerry was with us Friday and most of Saturday. He led us in morning devotions and celebrated Mass with us at the mission house on Friday evening. During the day, Father and team members visited homes in the Colonia in which we worked. Sister Ursula hosted us at the Benedictine Mission House in Eagle Pass. She also worked with local authorities to identify the work for us, arranged meals, and generally pointed us in the right direction. It was a great blessing to work with Fr. Gerry and Sister Ursula. We held morning and evening devotions each day and concluded the mission Sunday morning with Mass at St. Joseph's Parish in Eagle Pass.

Preparation

Five members of the team left from SJV early Thursday morning to visit the work sites, plan the work and buy materials. The remainder of the team left from SJV late in the afternoon.

Home of Guillermo and his wife

We worked at two homes in close proximity to each other. The first was a house trailer that a disabled couple purchased for \$2,000 this summer. Although they are living in the trailer, many of the windows were broken and missing, the roof and siding leaked, and there was no electrical service. The team repaired the roof, replaced all the broken glass, and did extensive caulking. One of the team members paid an electrician to bring the electrical system to code so power could be restored. He also purchased two electrical space heaters for the couple. With winter approaching, the couple, as you might guess, was very grateful and much relieved.

Home of Aurora & Juan Francisco Juarez

The second home was owned by an elderly couple and was badly damaged by a fire. As a practical matter, all that was left after the fire were the cement block walls and the cement slab. Another team or teams had replaced the roof and run electrical wiring. We cleaned-up a large quantity of debris around the house from the fire, painted all the interior walls white with stain block, dry walled the ceiling, insulated the attic, built a wall, and framed-up the windows and doors. The couple, Aurora and Juan Francisco, spent both days with us. Juan Francisco had built the home himself. We were struck by how much they had lost, but nevertheless retained their dignity and hope. One of the high points of the trip was praying with them after we had completed our work late Saturday evening.

Future

Our plan is to have a longer (four work day) mission trip in March and a shorter (two work day) mission trip in October. We expect the size of the teams to grow.

May God bless you,
Dick

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The fifteen mission workers found the home of Aurora & Juan Francisco Juarez totally hidden from view by overgrown bushes and brush. The inside had been totally gutted from a fire a few years previous. Since the fire, because of the damage and the lack of electricity, and other utilities, they have not been able to live in the house they built themselves. The team made some major strides toward total restoration; built an interior wall between back entrance and kitchen; installed dry wall and insulation in the ceiling; and painted walls after debris and trash were removed from house and yard.



(Back left) Fr. Gerry, John Chipps, Diana Carreon, Ann Turner, Bruce Clay,
(Front) Dave Brucker, Sr. Ursula, Pat Peters, Aurora Juarez, Paul Schumann,
Bob Kleeman, Juan Francisco Juarez, Dick Horstman, Robert Carreon,
Oscar Martinez, Sal Guttilla, Nick Carreon.



Lunch time in the back yard. Note: add-on rooms, no door, windows.



Back door area upon arrival.



This is the debris and trash waiting to be picked up.



The other added room in back

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Sal & Ann plan for the wall which would divide the back



door entrance area from the kitchen - was one long room



Front door - living room. Another team had done roof/rafters



In the kitchen Diana, Fr. Gerry, Sr. Ursula hear Aurora's story.



Juan Francisco, Diana, Pat, Sr. Ursula, Fr. Gerry, Ann, Aurora



Those who oversee

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Gathered around the Table of the Lord



Gathered for Pizza Meal around and on building materials



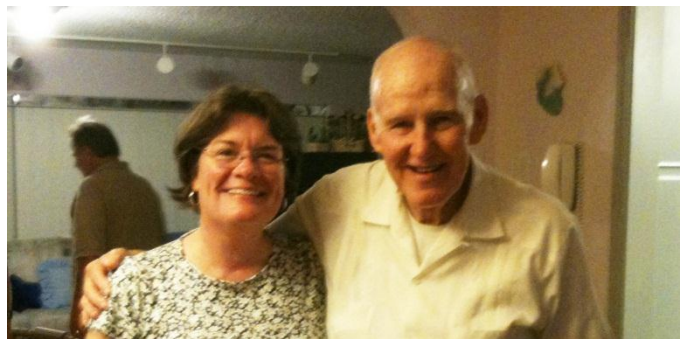
Simple Desert



The new window pain?



Break time to check out the Rio Grande



The Joy of the Lord